पारलैङ्गिक अधिकार समूह
Trans Rights Collective (TRC)

A loose network of young trans men & trans women, based in Nepal since 27 Sept. 2020 [transrightscollective@gmail.com]

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Every year on 22 October, International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization is observed to eradicate pathologization of trans identity. While efforts are taking place globally as well as nationally, we are very concerned with the parliament of Nepal gearing to pathologize transgender people.

The proposed Citizenship Act Amendment Bill and endorsement from State Affairs and Good Governance Committee has reduced the scope of gender identity to a 'third gender' option and made 'medical certification' a requirement to be able to receive or amend citizenship certificate's name and gender marker.

We'd like to remind (while shortcomings still avail) the Supreme Court has passed verdicts declaring gender identity as a subject of self-determination. United Nations Human Rights Council have also passed several concluding recommendations that gender identity should not be pathologized by subjecting to a 'medical diagnosis' and that involuntary medical interventions are forms of torture and human rights violation. Subjecting pathologization and legitimizing such regulations through law contributes in expanding the already widespread brutal inequalities, stigma, prejudice, discrimination and violence against trans people. We urge the government, parliament & related bodies to uphold Supreme Court Verdicts, International Values and our Constitution to protect rights of trans people – and drop pathologizing requirements for a basic right of citizenship.

Additionally, we've also seen that many medical schools in Nepal include pre-dating information about trans people – considering our gender identity as a subject of disorder – which further contributes to stigma we face in health care settings. Medical schools & related authorities must update their curriculum & coursebook to remove predated notions about transgender people, and promote a trans-inclusive education therefore contributing to decrease stigma against trans people in health care settings.

We'd like to remind everyone again that we trans men are men and we trans women are women. Forcefully imposing a 'third gender' identity is violation of our constitutional right of gender identity.

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